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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

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presence of at least two sequential reaction lines arranged in parallel. Each sequential reaction line has at least two valves, the valves making it possible to control fluid transfers in series within a channel from an initial level to a subsequent level. Importantly, each valve is made up of at least a means which can be deformed by an actuator and the configuration of control valves for transferring fluids between to adjacent levels is the same for all of the reaction lines.

Figs. 1-5 illustrate one embodiment of the claimed test card. The figures presented to the Examiner during the personal interview (a copy of which is attached hereto) illustrate two alternative embodiments of the claimed test card.

Zanzucchi et al. fails to disclose or suggest these features of the claimed test card. Instead, Zanzucchi et al. discloses a disc-shaped micro laboratory having a plurality of radially disposed modules (48) such that an angle exists between adjacent reaction lines. It is therefore impossible to use a unique actuator means in order to actuate valves from different reaction lines which are positioned at the same level. Instead, in a radially disposed disc, the distance between two valves positioned in adjacent reaction lines will decrease rather than remain the

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same. Moreover, Zanzucchi et al. fails to disclose a test card having valves comprising at least a means which can be deformed by an actuator. Instead, the valves disclosed by Zanzucchi et al. at Figs 6a-6c are not deformed by an actuator.

During the interview Examiner Kim cited Figs. 8A-C of Zanzucchi et al. as possibly disclosing an alternative embodiment which satisfies the limitations of the claimed test card. Figs. 8A-C illustrate a "modular array" embodiment of Zanzucchi et al.'s microlaboratory disk 214. See Col. 11, line 51 to Col 13, line 3 of Zanzucchi et al. This modular array employs gating electrodes to transfer reagents and samples along vertical and horizontal channels. See, in particular, Col. 12, lines 44-47 and Fig. 7C. These gating electrodes are not deformable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Zanzucchi et al.'s "modular array" embodiment also fails to disclose or suggest the claimed test card.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claims 21, 22, 24, 32, 37 and 46 are earnestly requested.

It is believed this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 21, 22, 24, 32, 37 and 46, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance directed to claims 21-46, are earnestly requested. The Examiner is urged to

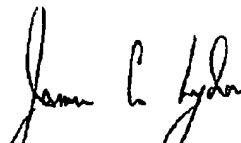
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telephone the undersigned should he believe any further action is required for allowance.

A Petition and fee for a two month Extension of Time are attached. It is not believed any additional fee is required for entry and consideration of this Request. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1258 in the amount of any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**Enclosures:**

Petition for Extension of Time  
Figures Illustrating Alternative Embodiments of Test Card

